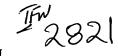
## PATENT APPLICATION





## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Takashi Ihara

Serial No.:

10/511,912

Conf. No.:

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Filed:

10/20/2004

For:

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2821

Examiner:

Not assigned

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

Date

Registivation No. 29,367
Attorney for Applicant(s)

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within any of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of First Office Action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements); or
- (c) before the mailing of a First Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continuing Examination.

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of foreign patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R.§§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

300 South Wacker Drive - Suite 2500

Chicago, Illinois 60606

Telephone: (312) 360-0080 Facsimile: (312) 360-9315

Customer Number 24978

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

Patrick G. Burns, Reg. No. 29,367

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\*Examiner:

U.S. Department of Commerce Attorney Docket No.: 1912.71714 Serial No.: 10/511,912 Patent and Trademark Office Applicant: Takashi IHARA INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) Filing Date: 10/20/2004 Group: 2821 **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS** Examiner Filing Date Initial\* Document Number Date Name Class Subclass If Appropriate Oct. 17, 2000 6,134,188 Ganter et al. FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Translation Document Number Date Country Class Yes Subclass No 44 07 116 Sep. 14, 1995 Germany Abs. 2000-105285 Apr. 11, 2000 Japan Abs. OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) Examiner Date Considered

Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.